United Nations S/2017/264

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 March 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the statement issued by the Humanitarian Aid Commission of the Sudan on 26 March 2017 (see annex) on the efforts of the Sudan to mitigate the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. The statement attributed to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan is also attached (see annex).

Contrary to these positive developments and constructive engagement by the Government of the Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) (the national army of South Sudan), which is still deploying some of its units in the Sudanese territories north of the 1 January 1956 border line, continued its incursions on Sudanese territories. For instance, on 26 February 2017, a force from SPLA looted 65 heads of sheep from Misseriya herders in the Aldihin area, 25 kilometres south-east of Almiram town. Moreover, on 10 March 2017 a force from SPLA that originated from the Algirinti area attacked the Alshadeeda area, 28 kilometres south-east of Elmairan, killing five Sudanese civilians and looting heads of cattle.

Having brought this to your kind attention, I should appreciate if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahb Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

17-05161 (E) 040417

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Republic of the Sudan
Ministry of Welfare and Social Security
Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC)

Press statement

The Government of Sudan Agrees to Open New Corridor for Delivery of Humanitarian Aid in South Sudan

As part of the Sudanese Government's efforts to mitigate the effects of famine and deliver relief assistance to the affected people in the State of South Sudan, the Government of Sudan has announced its agreement this week to open a new corridor for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) through El Obeid — Heglig — Rubkona — Bentiu to assist famine-affected areas in the States of Unity and Greater Bahr el Ghazal. The Presidency of the Republic of Sudan has directed to contribute 10,000 sacks of *dura* (sorghum) to support the critical humanitarian operation carried out by the United Nations.

The Government of Sudan is also ready to open the River Corridor and hopes that river barges will be returned from South Sudan so that relief efforts can be strengthened, should roads become impassable because of the rainy season.

These steps are in line with the efforts of the Government of Sudan and the directives of the President of the Republic of Sudan to provide humanitarian assistance to the State of South Sudan to donate 12,500 tons of *dura* (in two consignments). The Vice-President also has issued a decree to form the High National Committee for the Support of Refugees from the State of South Sudan under the chairmanship of Field Marshal/Abdulrahman Sawar Al-Dahab and the membership of some 40 members from government entities, national and foreign voluntary organizations and the United Nations.

The Humanitarian Aid Commission has also extended the Humanitarian Aid Delivery Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the State of South Sudan to deliver humanitarian aid to the State of South Sudan, which aims to deliver 65,000 tons of food by the World Food Programme.

Khartoum
26 March 2017

Statement attributable to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan, Ms. Marta Ruedas, on the Sudan opening a new humanitarian corridor for food aid into famine-struck South Sudan

Khartoum, 26 Mar 2017. The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan, Ms. Marta Ruedas, today welcomed the decision by the Government of Sudan to open a new humanitarian corridor for food aid to be delivered by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) from El Obeid in central Sudan to Bentiu, a town in Unity State, South Sudan, where 100,000 people are enduring famine amid a deepening humanitarian crisis across the country.

"By opening this cross-border corridor, the Government of Sudan is showing its commitment to the people of South Sudan and further strengthening cooperation with the international community to pull South Sudan back from a widening famine that could affect another 1 million people," said Ms. Ruedas. "This decision also comes at a critical time just before South Sudan's rainy season, which starts in May and usually renders these roads impassable."

This week, WFP will be moving an initial delivery of 11,000 metric tons of sorghum — including 1,000 metric tons donated by the Government of Sudan — in seven convoys of 30 to 40 trucks, which is enough to feed 300,000 people for three months. The convoys will take up to four days to complete the 500km journey. The humanitarian corridor will not only allow for the timely delivery of the food aid, but will also help reduce reliance on air operations, which cost six to seven times as much as moving food by river and road.

At least 7.5 million people across South Sudan — almost two thirds of the population — need humanitarian assistance. Sudan is also currently hosting over 350,000 South Sudanese refugees, who have arrived since the conflict erupted in December 2013.